

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The present amendment is submitted to place the above-identified application in condition for allowance based on the indication of allowable subject matter in the outstanding Office Action. More particularly, in the outstanding Office Action claims 6, 7, 13, 14, and 20 were objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were noted as allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims.

By the present amendment each of claims 6, 13, and 20 is rewritten in independent form, and claims 7 and 14 depend from respective claims 6 and 13. Thus, each of claims 6, 7, 13, 14, and 20 is believed to be allowable based on the indication of allowable subject matter in the outstanding Office Action.

Further, by the present response the other previously pending rejected claims are canceled without prejudice.

The present response also does not raise any new issues that would preclude entry of the present amendment as the present response only amends claims in a manner already indicated as allowable in the Office Action.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



---

Eckhard H. Kuesters  
Registration No. 28,870  
Surinder Sachar  
Registration No. 34,423  
Attorneys of Record

Customer Number

**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 06/04)  
SNS:smi

I:\ATTY\SNS\0039\00397669\00397669-AF.DOC